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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Rumania

DATE DISTR. 13 November 1952

SUBJECT

The 1 May Forwarding Cooperative in Bucharest

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1. The 1 May Forwarding Cooperative has many branches in Bucharest and in smaller towns. Its large number of members are mostly former clerks or workers employed by the railroad, custom offices, and forwarding companies. A special packing and forwarding section of 450 members, known as 13 December, has its administrative offices and main depot at 1 Strada Lipscani, Bucharest.
2. In 1950 the following jobs were carried out for Sovromtransport in the presence of a representative of this organization:
  - a. A total of 65 cases, each case weighing up to 800 kg., containing oil paintings, bronze and marble statuettes, and rugs, were packed in the Royal Palace. They were marked only with numbers from 1 to 65, loaded on trucks, and [REDACTED] sent to Moscow in five freight cars. Files and documents were also packed in the Palace, and the entire job was accomplished in two days and three nights.

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- b. Almost the entire contents of the Simu Museum, including famous oil paintings and statues, were packed, loaded on closed trucks of a Budapest forwarding company, and sent by train to Budapest for an exhibition. It is not known whether the exhibits were returned from Budapest or sent elsewhere.
- c. On behalf of the Soviet Commission several small factories, including one belonging to Sokolsky and Son, on Strada Ferentari, Bucharest, and a factory for Macrame (knotted work fabric), on Strada Vaselor, Bucharest, each containing between 30 to 60 looms, were dismantled. The equipment, from 60 to 120 looms, was said to have been sent to a new factory at Botosani, although it was

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SECRET

25X1

- 2 -

generally believed that it had been sent to the USSR. The Macrame Factory, which belonged to an Armenian, had two modern German machines with a daily capacity of 500 to 600 kg. of thread.

3. Large quantities of goods were packed and sent in 15 to 25 freight cars daily from the main depot of the No. 1 Cooperative, Strada Tudor Vladimirescu, Bucharest, to the branches and sales stores of Centrocoop. The price paid for packing was 2 lei per kg. of ironware and 6 lei per kg. of cotton, knitwear and textiles.
4. The following personalities are known:

a. Martinescu, director of the 13 December Department. He is 35 years old.

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b. Pelinescu, assistant to Martinescu. He is 37 years old.

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25X1 [redacted] Comment. It is presumed that these jobs were carried out by the 1 May Forwarding Cooperative.

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